

1 second laser diode has ray fans extending across the full
2 aperture of said lens, and

3 diffractive means carried by said single element
4 objective lens, said diffractive means providing sufficient
5 aspheric surface power for spherical aberration correction and
6 providing correction for spherochromatism.

7
8 7. (amended) The apparatus of claim 6 wherein said first
9 surface is located closer to said disk support and drive means
10 than said second surface and [further comprising] said dif-
11 fractive means is carried by said second surface[, said dif-
12 fractive means providing sufficient aspheric surface power for
13 spherical aberration correction and providing correction for
14 spherochromatism].

15 REMARKS

16 Claims 1-4, 6-8 and 10 remain in the application. Claims
17 5, 9, 11 and 12 have been cancelled.

18 With respect to the objection made by the Examiner under
19 35 U.S.C. § 112 to the phrase "cover plate" appearing at lines 5
20 and 6 of claim 1 and in lines 5 and 6 of claim 6, applicants have
21 substituted the phrase --- disk substrate --. As used in the
22 specification and claims as originally filed, applicants clearly
23 used the phrase "cover plate" synonymously with the disk sub-
24 strate. The phrase "disk substrate" is more commonly used in
25 the art and applicants agree that term is more appropriately used
26 in claims 1 and 6.

1 Applicants note the allowable subject matter indicated in
2 the Office action. Claim 1 has been amended to include the
3 diffractive means but without specifying on which of the lens
4 surfaces the diffractive means is carried. Applicants believe
5 that claim 1 as amended fairly includes the allowable subject
6 matter indicated in the Examiner's statement of allowable subject
7 matter. Claims 2-4 have simply been amended to avoid repetition
8 of the language describing the function of the diffractive means
9 now included in amended claim 1.

10 Claim 6 has similarly been amended to include the concept
11 of the diffractive means from claim 7, and claim 7 has been
12 amended somewhat to avoid repetition of the language now included
13 in amended claim 6. Claims 8 and 10 remain in the application
14 without amendment.

15 Applicants wish to call the Examiner's attention to the
16 enclosed Information Disclosure Statement submitted simul-
17 taneously with this amendment. The enclosed Information Disclo-
18 sure Statement transmits for review the search results in the
19 corresponding PCT application, which search was conducted by the
20 European Patent Office. The undersigned submits that, for
21 reasons stated in the attached Information Disclosure Statement,
22 the claims as amended hereby are patentably distinct over the
23 prior art cited by the EPO.

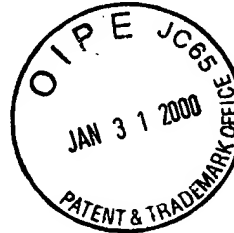
24 Applicants also wish to call to the Examiner's attention
25 that twelve sheets of formal drawings were submitted to the
26 Patent Office under date of July 8, 1999. The return postcard

1 indicates that the Patent Office received the formal drawings on
2 July 12, 1999. However, applicants are enclosing another set of
3 twelve sheets of formal drawings.
4

5 Respectfully submitted,

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22 Jan. 25, 2000

23 Reg. No. 24,982 of
24 Eckhoff, Hoppe, Slick, Mitchell & Anderson

25 Bruce H. Johnsonbaugh
26 Signature

1/25/2000
Date